

Puget Sound Commercial Fisheries Hotline Message

Number 2,

Friday, August 12, 2011 at 3 PM.

The 2011 Puget Sound Commercial Salmon Regulation pamphlet may now be downloaded from our web site:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/salmon/>

Copies were distributed by mail to licensed fishers on Friday, August 5.

Fishers are reminded that a Fish Friendly certification card will be required to participate in any Area 7 or 7A commercial salmon fisheries.

Area 7 and 7A sockeye fisheries are not posted on this hotline. Please call the National Marine Fisheries Hotline: 1-(800)-662-9825.

In addition to Fish Friendly cards, please be aware of specific gear requirements during Area 7 and 7A sockeye openings:

- Gillnets require "Seabird Strips" to participate.
- Purse Seines are required to brail and have an operational recovery box aboard to participate.
- Reef nets are required to have a Puget Sound Reef Net Logbook aboard to retain any marked Chinook.
- For fishers who possess a Direct Retail Endorsement please remember per Washington Administrative Code (or WAC) 220-47-001 that all Puget Sound commercial salmon fisheries are designated as "Quick Reporting Required" and you must comply with provisions of WAC 220-69-240 subsection 12.
- Gillnet fishers are reminded that buoy requirements, as listed on page 15 of the pamphlet, are in effect for 300 fathom drift gill nets for all openings.

For the period of August 14th – August 20th all non Fraser Panel controlled areas are currently closed except as follow:

Area 7B and 7C Bellingham Bay and Samish Bay will be open to gill nets using 7-inch minimum mesh size during the following dates and times:

- 7 PM Sunday, August 14th to 8 AM Monday, August 15th.
- 7 PM Tuesday, August 16th to 8 AM Wednesday, August 17th.
- 7 PM Wednesday, August 17th to 8 AM Thursday, August 18th.

Area 7B and 7C Bellingham Bay and Samish Bay will be open to purse seines with a 5-inch strip from 6 AM to 8 PM on Wednesday, August 17th. Brailing and recovery box are required and all coho must be released.

Area 8A Port Susan and Port Gardner, waters north of line from Mukilteo Ferry Dock to Clinton Ferry Dock only, will be open to gill nets using 5-inch minimum 5 ½ inch maximum mesh size from 5 AM to 11:30 PM Wednesday, August 17th.

Area 8A Port Susan and Port Gardner, waters north of line from Mukilteo Ferry Dock to Clinton Ferry Dock only, will be open to purse seines with a 5-inch strip from 6 AM to 8 PM Thursday, August 18th. Release Chinook, coho, sockeye and chum.

Vessel operators should be aware that new Federal regulations were recently enacted to protect Killer Whales. These new rules prohibit vessels from approaching any killer whale closer than 200 yards and forbid vessels from intercepting a whale or positioning the vessel in its path. Exemptions to the rules apply to treaty Indian and non-treaty commercial fishing vessels lawfully engaged in actively setting, retrieving, or closely tending fishing gear or transferring catch. The regulations **DO** apply to all fishing vessels transiting to or from fishing areas. WDFW also encourages all vessel operators to “GO SLOW” in the vicinity of killer whales, and in areas frequented by the whales.

If you suspect an error in this message, or if you have questions please contact Steve Thiesfeld at (360) 902-2715. Thank you for calling the WDFW hotline for Puget Sound commercial fishing information.

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